

# The cold warrior in the hot seat of the CIA

STATINTL

Mr William Egan Colby could be mistaken for one of the thousands of middle-aged bureaucrats who drive into Washington from the outer suburbs each morning to shuffle papers in government departments such as Agriculture, Transportation, and Health, Education and Welfare. A superior bureaucrat (Princeton and the Columbia Law School) who has cultivated the anonymity of his kind: glasses, short back and sides, and sack suit.

He is a family man and a devout Catholic, who once was chairman of the Boy Scouts in Springfield, Maryland. He would probably still be chairman except that over the years he served in Stockholm, Rome and twice in Saigon, where in the diplomatic lists he was described as a first secretary.

In fact, he was the station chief of the Central Intelligence Agency in the first two capitals. In Saigon he eventually became director of the pacification programme. On Tuesday, he emerged from his anonymity briefly to go to the White House, where he was sworn in as Director of the CIA.

Mr Colby is very different from two of his predecessors, the late Allen Dulles and Mr Richard Helms. Mr Dulles was outgoing, liked to have reporters into his Georgetown home for a drink, and was a constant party-goer. Mr Helms was also frequently seen on the diplomatic cocktail circuit. No grey anonymity for them, but they had one thing in common with the new director.

They had all been in charge of the agency's Directorate of Operations. It is usually known as the Department of Dirty Tricks because this is the branch responsible for espionage and covert political operations. There are known

to have included the attempted invasion of Cuba and the deposing of foreign rulers unfortunate enough to have been regarded in Washington as ideologically unsound.

Mr Colby is a real professional, a lifetime intelligence man who began his career during World War II in the Office of Strategic Services. Then he practised what he afterwards directed. For instance, his official biography states that just before the end of the war he was parachuted into Norway to sabotage the railway system.

The thousands who work at the agency's headquarters in Langley, Virginia, at least know that one of their own is again in charge, but his welcome has not apparently been unanimous.

One reason is that he was regarded in the past as a cold war warrior, perhaps because of his Catholic background. Another but related reason can be explained by the functions of the agency and its organization.

The CIA was established by the National Security Act of 1947. Its major functions are to coordinate the intelligence activities of the several government departments and agencies; to advise the National Security Council in

matters concerning such intelligence activities; and evaluate intelligence relating to the national security.

Much of this is done by the Directorate of Intelligence which, in spite of its name, is mainly staffed by scholarly types from the better universities. Working mainly with information publicly available they produce the reports on which policy is formulated and presidential decisions taken. They are respected by their opposite numbers in London, and Moscow, in spite of the occasional envious sneer about their size and budget.

In my experience, these analysts tend to be broadminded and liberal. They do not go in for holy wars against the communist Anti-Christ. They believe that reconnaissance satellites and other electronic devices are more efficient in policing the Russian and Chinese nuclear armouries than spies and spooks with questionable foreign backgrounds. They have a distaste for the dirty tricks of the Directorate of Operations.

The dirty tricks are official work of course. General authority has been given, even if the wording is somewhat oblique. *The United States Government Organization Manual* gives it as follows: the agency "performs such other functions and duties related to intelligence affecting the national security as the National Security Council may from time to time direct".

Nevertheless, the collective brains of the agency have long thought that dirty tricks were old hat, and when Mr Schlesinger was director an effort was made to reduce such covert operations. Mr Colby might well reverse this process, or at least so it is felt at Langley.

Another reason why his appointment is not universally popular is that Mr Colby has been a man with two faces in more ways than one. Pacification in Vietnam looked an ideal job for a Boy Scout in that it was supposed to be a do-gooding organization providing roads and schools after they had been demolished by the B52s, but it also ran the Phoenix programme.

This was devised to disrupt and destroy the infrastructure of the Vietcong, the extraordinary underground organization which provided the guerrillas with food and support. According to Mr Colby's testimony given in 1971

before the House Foreign Operations and Government Information Subcommittee, 20,587 Vietcong were killed when he was in charge in Phoenix. It is alleged that many were murdered and others tortured.

The allegations have been denied of course. Mr Robert Komer, who ran Phoenix before Mr Colby, testified that the vast majority were killed in open combat. When asked how many were killed during interrogation, he replied, "I would say relatively few. It must have been way under the 10 per cent figure. The number killed by torture would be very, very little."

Mr Colby, when testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said, "I would not want to testify that nobody was killed wrongly or executed in this kind of a programme. I think it probably happened, unfortunately."

Yet one witness, Mr Barton Osborn, a former intelligence agent, told the House subcommittee that some Vietcong suspects captured by Phoenix operatives were interrogated in helicopters. Lesser fry were pushed out to persuade more important suspects to talk. He also described with horrifying detail the various methods of torture practised on the ground.

The truth will probably never be known. Certainly no Peers Commission has been convened to inquire into charges and oblique admissions indicating that in comparison My Lai was but an unfortunate incident. But the question now is whether Mr Colby is the right man to direct intelligence operations upon which presidential decisions of far reaching consequences will be taken.

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REPORT of The Herald of Freedom

## THE SONNENFELDT CASE --

The press, led by the N.Y. TIMES and the Washington POST, has charged to the rescue of Helmut Sonnenfeldt, an insider whose steady rise in the behind-the-scenes bureaucracy ruling the American people may be coming to the end, now that he has emerged from behind-the-scenes. While the Senate Finance Committee is considering his nomination as Under Secretary of the Treasury, the House Internal Security Committee is checking into his subversive background. Powerful forces are bringing pressure to bear to have Sonnenfeldt, top assistant to Henry Kissinger, confirmed in spite of his previous espionage activities.

President Nixon nominated the 46-year old Sonnenfeldt to be Under Secretary of the Treasury in which post Sonnenfeldt would have the responsibility of shaping the Administration's plans for increasing East-West trade and for establishing a new international monetary system that would include Communist nations. Several former Foreign Service career officers filed objections and testified against the nomination which was referred to the Senate Finance Committee for confirmation hearings on May 15, 1973.

On July 26, 1973, Congressman John M. Ashbrook of Ohio, Senior Republican Minority member of the House Internal Security Committee, opened hearings on the Federal Civil Employees Loyalty Security Program. The hearings are being held in executive session and informed sources state that Otto Otepka's testimony about security risks employed by the State Department will be shocking when published. Mr. Otepka personally handled one of the investigations on Helmut Sonnenfeldt, which involved a 24-hour a day surveillance, a legal wiretap on his telephones and the interviewing of numerous witnesses. It was conclusively determined that on more than one occasion Sonnenfeldt had turned over secret documents and confidential information to unauthorized persons among whom were agents of a foreign power.

Assistant Attorney General Henry E. Petersen, who is in charge of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, recently testified before the Senate Watergate Committee and was in complete support of President Nixon's innocence in connection with Watergate. He is also in complete support of Sonnenfeldt. When Petersen's attention was called to Paul Scott's syndicated column which revealed details of Sonnenfeldt's act of turning over secret documents to foreign agents, he replied as follows: (Quote)

This is in response to your recent letter to the Attorney General concerning a recent newspaper article by Paul Scott discussing the nomination of Mr. Helmut Sonnenfeldt to be Under Secretary of the Treasury Department and whether he would be a suitable candidate for that position.

Executive Order 10450 requires that an investigation be made of all employees of the executive branch before they can be accepted for a position. The Order further requires that all persons privileged to be employees in the executive branch must be loyal to the United States, and that no one may hold such a sensitive position with the government unless his employment is determined to be clearly consistent with the interests of the national security. These requirements apply, of course, to all presidential nominees, including those to be an Under Secretary.

In accordance with that Order, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has conducted a number of investigations of Mr. Sonnenfeldt's character and loyalty in connection with various positions he has held in that executive branch in the past. In all of those cases, the results were determined to be favorable. Thus, although we cannot disclose the contents of any of the Bureau's investigative files to one outside the Federal government, we can suggest in his article